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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/750,188	12/30/2003	Daniel R. Schlinz	19,043	9141
23556	7590	03/22/2007	EXAMINER	
KIMBERLY-CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC. 401 NORTH LAKE STREET NEENAH, WI 54956			ANDERSON, CATHARINE L	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3761		

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/22/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/750,188	SCHLINZ ET AL.
	Examiner C. Lynne Anderson	Art Unit 3761

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3-6, 17 and 18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2 and 7-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 20 December 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to the applicant's argument that the prior art of record fails to disclose a stretchable carrier layer that is not present in the crotch region, and therefore does not have a width in the crotch region of about crotch region width, it is noted that the present claims do not require that the stretchable carrier layer is present in the crotch region. The present claims do not disclose that the stretchable carrier layer is present in the crotch region. Since a width of the stretchable carrier layer of Van Gompel extends the entire width of the crotch region in the lateral direction, as shown in figure 3, Van Gompel fulfills the limitations of the claims.

In response to the applicant's argument that Van Gompel does not disclose that the fastener landing zone 50 (i.e. the stretchable carrier layer) is stretchable, it is noted that the fastener landing zone 50 of Van Gompel comprises a nonwoven material as the loop portion of a hook-and-loop fastener, as disclosed in column 23, lines 5-13. Nonwoven materials are fully capable of being stretched, and therefore Van Gompel fulfills the limitations of the claims.

In response to the applicant's argument that Van Gompel does not disclose that the first and second body panels 52 and 53 are elastic, it is noted that the first and second body panels 52 and 53 are disclosed as being elastic in column 18, lines 26-28.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, and 7-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Van Gompel et al. (6,132,410).

With respect to claims 1 and 2, Van Gompel discloses an absorbent garment, as shown in figure 1, having a front and rear waist regions and a crotch region. The garment comprises a liquid barrier layer 30, a stretchable carrier layer 50, an elastic layer 52 and 53, and an absorbent section 48, as shown in figures 1A and 1B. The elastic layer 53 is attached to the stretchable carrier layer 50, as shown in figure 1B. The absorbent section 48 is disposed on the inner surfaces of the liquid barrier layer 30 and the stretchable carrier layer 50, as shown in figures 1 and 1A.

With respect to claims 7 and 8, the elastic layer 52 and 53 is attached to the carrier layer 50 on both sides of the lateral center line in both the front 59 and rear 58 waist regions, as shown in figure 1.

With respect to claim 9, the carrier layer 50 is fully capable of being stretched in the lateral direction.

With respect to claim 10, the elastic layer 52 has a fastener element 70 attached, as shown in figure 1.

With respect to claim 11, an elastic ear material 36 is bonded to the side edge of the elastic layer 52, as shown in figure 1.

With respect to claim 12, the ear material 36 has a fastener element 70 attached, as shown in figure 1.

With respect to claims 13-16, Van Gompel discloses in column 21, lines 57-67, the method of making the garments is disclosed in U.S. Patent 4,938,753, which is incorporated by reference. Van Gompel ('753) discloses the method of forming a series of garments and selectively cutting into individual garments, as shown in figure 14 and disclosed in column 12, lines 3-37.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to C. Lynne Anderson whose telephone number is (571) 272-4932. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tanya Zalukaeva can be reached on (571) 272-1115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CMA
cla
March 16, 2007



TATYANA ZALUKAEVA
SUPERVISORY PRIMARY EXAMINER